CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
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Dear Sirs:

I sincerely hope that the time is now more favorable for the consideration of my long-standing request for entry visas to The People's Republic of China.

It is now almost two years since I first cabled and wrote Premier Chou En-lai and almost one year since I visited the Embassy of The People's Republic of China in Ottawa, Canada. For your convenience, I enclose copies of my original cable and letter.

It has been one year since the broadcast of my film, "Misunderstanding China," a copy of which I presented to the Embassy in Ottawa and which, I understand, has been received in Peking. The film was also made available to the Southern Film Corporation in Hong Kong.

This broadcast is the only one of its kind attempting to deal with the false images held by Americans of the Chinese and to deal realistically with the history of Chinese-American relations. It has received a wide and serious response. (At the time it was broadcast it had an unusually high rating of almost 30 per cent of the audience, more than ten million persons, compared with the NBC broadcast in the same week that received only a 13 per cent rating and an audience of five million persons.)

Since then, "Misunderstanding China" has been purchased and rebroadcast in seventeen countries. It has been used extensively in universities, schools, and adult education programs and in meetings sponsored by the United States-China People's Friendship Association. It is also being used by The National Council of Churches in an educational program for missionaries and laymen to understand better and to see more realistically the historical role and consequences of the missionary's activities in China and elsewhere.

Personally, I have been a student of China for more than fifteen years including two years of advanced study at Harvard University. I have studied the Chinese language. I have a sincere and abiding respect for the Chinese people and a deeply held concern for improving communications and understanding between the peoples of China and the United States.

In pursuit of these aims I have several specific proposals for television broadcasts which I believe to be in the profound interests of both Chinese and Americans.

One project which I offer for your consideration could be filmed simply in Shanghai. Shanghai is not only one of the great cities of the world but it is also an important symbol for both Chinese and Americans. As I referred to only briefly in "Misunderstanding China," Shanghai is an archive of the myths Americans have about the Chinese people. Today, the city is a symbol of China's strength and progress and a city of great historical significance as the birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party. This is only a brief outline of this one proposal, but an entire film about Shanghai would speak eloquently of Chinese-American relations and of China herself, past and present.

If this particular proposal is not possible at this time, I have in mind other equally important projects. I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss these with you should the time now be appropriate.

I respectfully submit again my request to visit and to film with your help a television presentation in The People's Republic of China. I and my CBS NEWS team are organized and prepared to undertake such a project at your earliest convenience and we can leave for The People's Republic of China at any time.

I look forward to your earliest response.

Most respectfully,

Irving E. Drasnin
Producer, CBS NEWS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Department of Information
Peking, The People's Republic of China

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